

## BOOK NOTICES

MILO I. HARPSTEAD, THOMAS J. SAUER, and WILLIAM F. BENNETT. 2001. **Soil Science Simplified, 4th edition.** (ISBN 0-8138-2942-9, hbk.). Iowa State Univ. Press, 2121 South State Ave., Ames, Iowa 50014, U.S.A (Orders: 800-862-6657, [www.isupress.com](http://www.isupress.com)). \$42.95, 225 pp., numerous b&w drawings and half-tones, 6" × 9".

This book is suitable as an undergraduate text or as a reference for biologists or other scientists not trained in soil science. It systematically covers the physical, biological and chemical properties of soils; soil formation, soil water, heat flow, and fertility; soil classification and surveys; and soil management, conservation, and engineering. I found the chapters on soil colloids and chemistry, soil classification, and soil surveys the most helpful in interpreting soil maps and characteristics. The different types of clays and their characteristics are explained. Also, the various word roots, prefixes and suffixes used in the names of soil classes and subclasses are explained. It includes a glossary and index.

The weakest aspect of the book is the quality of the illustrations. In many figures, the lines are excessively heavy, black, and run-together. Many of the drawings are not well-executed and fail to show the described features. As a result, much space is wasted that could have been better used by replacing with text or photographs.—Roger W. Sanders, Associate Collections Manager, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan St, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., [rsanders@brit.org](mailto:rsanders@brit.org).

WILHELMINA FEEMSTER JASHEMSKI and FREDERICK G. MEYER (eds.). 2002. **The Natural History of Pompeii.** (ISBN 0-521-80054-4, hbk.). Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK; 100 Brook Hill Drive, West Nyack, NY 10994-2133, U.S.A. (Orders: 845-353-7500, 845-353-4141 fax, <http://www.cup.org/>). \$170.00, 502 pp., 387 figs. (b/w, color, drawings, etc.), 9" × 12".

*From the dustjacket.*—"This volume brings together the work of geologists, soil specialists, paleobotanists, botanists, paleontologists, biologists, chemists, dendrochronologists, ichthyologists, zoologists, ornithologists, mammologists, herpetologists, entomologists, and archaeologists, affording a thorough picture of the landscape, flora and fauna of the ancient sites. The detailed and rigorously scientific catalogues, which are copiously illustrated, provide a checklist of the flora and fauna upon which future generations of scholars can continue to build."

The catalogue of plants by Wilhelmina F. Jashemski, Frederick G. Meyer, and Massimo Ricciardi enumerates and discusses in detail 184 plants. The chapter is 101 pages. The evidence for the plant list comes primarily from the urban sites Pompeii and Herculaneum, and a few villas, which give a good picture of the popular ornamental plants that adorned the many home gardens, parks, and other public places, as well as plants that had religious significance and those used for medicine and other purposes, especially food. There is an extensive list of references. This is an impressive work that will be of interest a variety of audiences.—Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan St, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A., [barney@brit.org](mailto:barney@brit.org).